WORKERS—AMBALLURE TEXTILES MILLS

586. Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they would enquire and say if there was at any time during the last 12 months any children without the required medical certificates working as adults in the Amballur Textiles Mills (Alagappa and or Cochin Textiles);

(*b*) whether the Civil Surgeon visited recently the Amballur Textiles Mills and examined the children who have been working as adults,

(*c*) whether the Labour Commissioner was also with him at that time;

(*d*) whether the Labour Welfare Officer appointed (deputed by the Government) in the Mills made any report to the Government that childen were made to do adults' work;

(*e*) whether the Labour Commissioner when he visited the Mills saw that the children working there (both as children and as adults) carried no tokens as required by the Provisions of the Cochin Factories Act and or rules;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the Civil Surgeon who examined the children certified to work as adults opined that many of them were not fit to work as adults;

(*g*) if the answer to (f) above is in the affirmative what action was taken by the Government in the matter?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)* :

(*a*) Enquiries made go to show that children without the required medical certificates were not working as adults.

(*b*) Yes. The Civil Surgeon was called in by the Company at the instance of the Director of Public Health and the Labour Commissioner.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No. The Labour Welfare Officer made reports to the Labour Commissioner in which he had stated that the workers of the Mills were given adolescents work only when they were certified as adolescents.

(*e*) All of them had tokens.

(*f*) Yes. Some of them.

(*g*) Those children who were found unfit to work as adults were immediately transferred by the Company into the Children's category of workers and made to work under the conditions given in the Factories Act for the employment of Children. The Chief Medical Officer also issued necessary instructions to the certifying authorities to be strict in the matter of granting certificates of fitness.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated)*: May I know what was the provocation for the Director of Public Health and the Labour Commissioner to go to the Textiles and inspect the labourers?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)*: There were complaints in the papers about this and according to them some of them were fit to be certified while some were not. The company asked the Civil Surgeon to examine them once again and on his examination, three or four of them were not actually found to be fit to be certified.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated)*: May I take it that the Labour Commissioner thought that some of the children who were working as adolescents were not fit to work like that?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)*: Yes, both the Director of Public Health and the Labour Commissioner went there together.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated)*: May I know why the Labour Welfare Officer who has been there all along did not know that the children were working as adolescents?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)*: He reported that they have been certified as fit by the doctors and he did not interfere.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated)*: But why he did not notice that children were doing the work adolescents. The Labour Commissioner is also a layman; why did he not report to this effect.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)*: He did not report probably because they were certified as adolescents.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated)*: How many of these people were sent back as children?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)*: The exact number is not noted. But I think it is three or four.

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Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know what action has been taken against the certifying Medical Officer?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* As I said the Civil Surgeon of Trichur is a certifying Medical Officer and it is the same Civil Surgeon of Trichur that certified later on that they have become unfit probably because of work. They are no longer fit to do that work. It is only a question of going down in health after three or four years of work. Therefore after working for a few years they have become unfit to do adults' works. There is no action to be taken against anybody.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know whether it is the position that they were adults before and after working for three four years they have become children?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* People don't have the same standard of health always. Naturally after working for three or four years they might have gone down in health, they might have got typhoid or some ailment and have become unfit to do adult's work. The Civil Surgeon examined them and said that they are no longer to do adults' work and immediately they were transferred to the children's section. The Chief Medical Officer has asked the Civil Surgeon and the Pudukad Hospital Doctor who are the two persons to certify to be very strict in certifying.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know where is the necessity to ask them to be strict, does it mean that they were not strict before?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* They might have been strict but seeing that such a thing has happened the Chief Medical Officer has asked them to be very strict in this matter. So stringent orders were passed that they must be very very careful in issuing the certificate.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* Have the Government noted that there were complaints in newspapers that the certifying surgeons have been issuing certificates on small payments.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* No.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* They have not.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* Can children be converted into adults by certificates?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* Under the Factories Act if the health of a boy is very good he can be certified as fit to do adults' work.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* Will he be given equal pay with the adults?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* Yes. Certainly.

Mr. Puthur Achutha Menon *(Kattur):* Was it the same Civil Surgeon?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* I cannot say whether it was the same person.

Mr. Puthur Achutha Menon *(Kattur):* Has there been any change in the person of the Civil Surgeon?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* I told you that four years ago the Civil Surgeon of Trichur found that they were sufficiently healthy and fit to do adults' work and it may be due to some suffering or ailment subsequent to his examination that they are not fit now.

Mr. Puthur Achutha Menon *(Kattur):* Was it the reason of health alone that made him certify like that?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* Yes, certainly. The health of the boys was found to be good.

Mr. P. Sankara Menon *(Trichur-North):* May I know when did the Civil Surgeon visit the Textiles?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* I don't know the exact date.

Mr. P. Sankara Menon *(Trichur-North):* Was it after the question was put?

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Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* It was before the question, but after the complaint appeared in papers.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* Has not the Mills got a doctor of their own?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)* : Yes. There is a doctor.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* Is he not periodically examining the employees?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)*: He is.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* Is he not a person competent? Is he not a L. M. S.?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)* : He is a L.M.S.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated)*: Has he not got the rank of an Assistant Surgeon?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)*: He was here a Health Officer in the Municipality. He was not a Medical Officer. Later on they appointed him as the Mill-Doctor.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated)*: Was he not periodically examining them?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)* : He must have been.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* But he did not find that their helth has deteriorated?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)*: That we don't know.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ടി. ജേക്കബ്ബ്: എത്ര വയസ്സുള്ള കുട്ടികളുണ്ടവിടെ?

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ജെ. മാത്യു: നോട്ടീസ്സ് വേണം.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഡി. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: നാലുകൊല്ലത്തിനു മുമ്പല്ലേ ഫാക്ടറി വയസ്സ്?

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ജെ. മാത്യു: കുട്ടികൾ അവരുടെ വയസ്സ് എത്രയെന്ന് നിശ്ചയമില്ല.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know whether a certificate is required before or after 15 years?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* The adults' certificate is above 15 years.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* So a man who is 19 has to work as a child?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)*: One who is 19 is certainly an adult. But if he is unfit to do an adult's work he will be treated as a child.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated)* : Is there any provision in the Factories Act about this?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* No provision is necessary; a man is unfit and he is willing to do the child's work.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* Is there any provision in the Factories Act to compel a person to go back to the children's section either by the Authorities or by the Mill Authorities?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* There is no provision to compel, but they voluntarily come to it and nobody can object.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated)* : It is only about the boys?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)* : What I said was about the particular boys. They were found to be unfit to do the adult's work and so they were transferred to the category of children and they were agreeable to that.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Cochin-Kanayannur-Ezhuvas):* Do the adults require certificate of evidence?

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated)*: No.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)*: They do not require certificates of evidence.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Cochin-Kanayannur-Ezhuvas):* What was the necessity for the Civil Surgeon to re-exmine?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* Because some of the boys were found to be unfit for adult's work by the Public Health Director and the Labour Commissioner and hence they were got examined by the Civil Surgeon.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know whether in his report the Civil Surgeon has stated that some boys were under age?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated)*: May I request the Government Secretary to go into the report and make himself sure.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* I have examined the report completely; there is no such report.

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Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I request the Government to make an enquiry into the matter?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* No enquiry is necessary, but we will find out.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Ernakulam):* Is it not a fact that certificates are required only in the case of persons between the years of 15 and 18 called adolecents if they are to do the work of adults. What is the meaning of saying that persons who are 19 years of age should have certificates?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* I am not sure what their age is. After working for 4 years, assuming that they got employed at the age of 15, they must be 19 now, and hence I inferred they might be 19 now. Probably it is a case of volunteering because they were unfit to do adult's work.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Cochin-Kanayannur-Ezhuvas):* What will be the age of a boy of 15 after 4 years? (laughter)

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know whether there is a complaint generally that children are made to do adults' work?

Mr . C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* There was a complaint like that in the Press.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* In as much as there is a complaint will the Government be pleased to make a general enquiry into this matter, not only pertaining to this mill but to other mills also?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* There is no case that anybody working in the adults' section is under-aged now. All that is over now. Now there is no complaint.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* There are other mills also.

Mr. C. J. Mahew *(Secretary to Government):* That has to be broght to the special notice of the Government.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Ernakulam):* Has the Civil Surgeon examined persons between the age of 15 and 18 and who for the last four years were doing the work of adult?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* That is so.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. നാരായണമേനോൻ: ഫ്രീ വയസ്സിൽ താഴെ സ്റ്റഡൈനൽ പാസ്സായിട്ടുള്ളവരെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ട് സർവ്വീസിൽ നിയമിക്കാറുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ജെ. മാത്യു: സ്റ്റാഫ് സെലക്ഷൻ ബോർഡിൽ ചിലപ്പോൾ ഫ്രീ വയസ്സിനു മീതെയുള്ളവരേയും എടുക്കാറുണ്ട്.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know what kind of labour welfare work is being done by the Labour Welfare Officer?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* He is doing general welfare work.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* Can we have some idea of the nature of the work that he is doing because he does not take care to see whether a child is doing an adult's work.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* He is looking after gneral welfare of the labourers.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Ernakulam):* Is he paid by the Government?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):* He is paid from the Company.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Ernakulam):* Then we understand.

SPINDLES—COCHIN TEXTILES

587. Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) how many spindles are there in the "Cochin Textiles" Pudukad;

(*b*) how much electric power was consumed by the Cochin Textiles in the years 1118, 1119 and 1120?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) 41,366.

(*b*) 1118—27,07,624 Uts.
1119—21,87,075 Uts.
1120—24,74,925 Uts.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* May I know whether these 41,366 spindles are working now?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Only about 15,000 spindles are working.

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